

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 MC-02 DODE-00

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R 271215Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5017

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8421

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, CG

SUBJ: PROPOSED GOZ PURCHASE OF GULFSTREAM MITSUBISHI AND  
MIRAGE AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 187105

1. GRUMMAN GULFSTREAM REPS ARRIVED AND WERE RECEIVED  
(ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING ECONOMIC COUNSELOR) BY GENERAL  
BABIA, WHO TOLD US HE HAD BEEN CHARGED BY PRESIDENT  
MOBUTU TO OBTAIN FULL PARTICULARS OF OFFERS FOR ONE  
GULFSTREAM II AND ONE MITSUBISHI MU2.

2. DURING MEETINGS WITH COL. KIKUNDA-OMBALA, CHIEF  
SODEMAZ, AND COMMANDER, CENTRAL OPERATIONS CENTER,  
WHO BABIA CHARGED WITH OBTAINING TECHNICAL AND  
LOGISTICAL ASPECTS OF THE OFFER, WE WERE TOLD THAT  
GULFSTREAM II WOULD REPLACE A RECENTLY-SOLD LEAR JET  
AS PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT FOR TRIPS WITHIN AFRICA AND TO  
EUROPE. THE MU2 (KIKUNDA HAD JUST MET WITH THE MITSUBISHI  
GROUP IN SAN ANGELO, TEXAS) WAS TO BE  
USED BY MINISTERIAL-LEVEL PERSONNEL FOR TRIPS WITHIN THE  
ZAIRE..

3. TECHNICAL CONFERENCE PROCEEDED WELL AND KIKUNDA  
DRAFTED TELEGRAM TO BISENGIMANA PASS MOBUTU VER BRIEFLY  
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DETAILING THE OFFER OF THE GULFSTREAM II AT \$5,640,100

TO INCLUDE DELUX INTERIOR OF CLIENT'S CHOICE, TWO YEARS SPARES, AND TRAINING IN U.S. FOR 4 PILOTS AND 6 MECHANICS AT GRUMMAN'S COMPLETE EXPENSE. MOREOVER, PRICE INCLUDES DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT, INCLUDING FUEL, AT KINSHASA, AND SERVICES OF ONE GRUMMAN PILOT, 1 GRUMMAN TECHNICAL REP AND 1 GRUMMAN ELECTONICS TECHNICIAN FOR ONE MONTH.

4. TELEGRAM QUOTED PROPOSED CONTRACT WHICH CALLED FOR DOWN PAYMENT ON SIGNATURE OF \$250,000 DOLLARS WITH REMAINDER \$310,000) PAYABLE 30 DAYS LATER.

5. GRUMMAN REPS ARE NOW AWAITING MEETING WITH ECONOMICS AND FINANCIAL STAFF OF PRESIDENCY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF CONTRACT.

6. DURING DISCUSSIONS KIKUNDA MAINTAINED THE DESIRABILITY OF DEALING COMPLETELY WITH ONE COMPANY, STATING THAT QUOTE WE RECENTLY SIGNED A CONTRACT FOR FRENCH AIRCRAFT AND WILL BE DEALING WITH DASSAULT ON SOME PROBLEMS AND WITH SNECMA ON OTHERS. UNQUOTE. ACTING ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ASKED KIKUNDA IF THE CONTRACT WERE FOR MIRAGES, AND HE REPLIED UNEQUIVOCALLY IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, WHEN ASKED HOW MANY MIRAGES WERE INVOLVED IN THE CONTRACT HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW.

7. COMMENT: IT SEEM UNLIKELY THAT KIKUNDA WOULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MIRAGE CONTRACT TO THE POINT OF SIGNATURE WITHOUT KNOWING HOW MANY AIRCRAFT WERE INVOLVED. IT MAY WELL BE THAT HE MEANT TO SAY THAT HE HAD EXAMINED A PROPOSED CONTRACT FOR THE SALE OF MIRAGES.

8. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.  
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